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Senate Committee on Appropriations

Pursuant to a Congressional request, the Privacy Group in our General Government Division is initiating a survey of federal employee drug testing programs (Code 014611). Our objectives are to identify (1) problems experienced by agencies with ongoing drug testing programs, and (2) lessons learned that other agencies starting their own drug testing programs can use to avoid or minimize problems. To obtain this information we plan to examine ongoing employee drug testing programs at the Departments of Treasury, Transportation, Justice and Defense, and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to answer such questions as whether drug testing programs ensure: (1) employee privacy rights, (2) individual due process rights, and (3) an acceptable level of laboratory quality.

The survey stage of our work at the CIA will involve reviewing records and interviewing personnel. Initially we want to identify the nature and extent of ongoing drug testing programs as well as any plans for their expansion and/or modification. During our initial visit we hope to pretest a list of questions being used. After completing this phase of the work, we will determine the specific aspects of the drug testing programs to examine in detail.

Staff from our Norfolk Regional Office are responsible for this assignment. For information, please contact Mr. Robert Aughenbaugh in Norfolk on FTS 827-6621, or Mr. Richard Caradine at GAO headquarters on 275-3532.

John Remke
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GAO Evaluator

~~Rec'd in OCA~~
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